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House Democratic Caucus Chair Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., arrives to meet with his fellow Democrats, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

Jeffries makes historic bid to lead House Dems after Pelosi

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced she would step aside, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York launched a history-making bid Friday to become the first Black person to helm a major political party in Congress as leader of the House Democrats.

In a letter to colleagues, Jeffries gave a nod to the "legendary figures" before him: Pelosi, the first female speaker in U.S. history, and her leadership team. He encouraged his fellow House members to embrace a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to unleash their "full potential as a team." And he pledged to draw on the diverse Democratic caucus as it works to govern in a divided Congress and win back the majority after House Republicans narrowly seized control in the midterm elections.

"The House Democratic Caucus is the most authentic representation of the gorgeous mosaic of the American people," Jeffries wrote.

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"We want calculated and structured development"



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Jeffries makes historic bid to lead House Dems after Pelosi



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., talks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022.

Continued from Front

"I write to humbly ask for your support for the position of House Democratic Leader as we once again prepare to meet the moment." Along with Pelosi, the other top two House Democrats — Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the majority leader, and Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the whip — also announced their intentions to step down from leadership. All three are in their 80s.

A new generation wasted no time preparing to take their place. Along with Jeffries, Reps. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts and Pete Aguilar of California — who have worked together as a lower-rung leadership team — swiftly wrote to colleagues with their bids for the second- and third-ranking positions in House Democratic leadership. Jeffries and Clark are in their 50s, while Aguilar is in his 40s.

The trio has been working together for years, preparing for just this moment, seeking to engineer a smooth transition when Pelosi, Hoyer and Clyburn decided to leave.

Pelosi heartily backed the

potential new leaders.

"It is with pride, gratitude and confidence in their abilities that I salute Chairman Hakeem Jeffries, Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark and Vice Chairman Pete Aguilar for being ready and willing to assume this awesome responsibility," Pelosi said Friday in a statement.

House Democrats will meet behind closed doors as a caucus in two weeks, after the Thanksgiving holiday, to select their members. So far, Jeffries, Clark and Aguilar have no stated challengers.

The Brooklyn-born Jeffries has long been seen as a charismatic new leader, known for his sharp but careful style, first in New York politics and then when he entered the national stage upon winning election to Congress in 2012.

and state assemblyman, state lawmaker who be-Jeffries has represented Brooklyn and parts of Queens for a decade and quickly rose through the ranks in Congress, serving as the party's 5th-highestranking member as chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

"You could sense there was

some purpose in him," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights leader, recalling the quiet and pensive young lawmaker he first met decades go.

"He always seemed like a guy that was headed somewhere but was willing to pace himself to get there," Sharpton said. "You meet a lot of people that are ambitious, that would do anything. You never got that impression from Hakeem."

While Jeffries has been part of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, he's seen as a more moderate, business-friendly lawmaker who is sometimes at odds with the House's furthestleft members.

But his appeal rests in his political skill at a transformative time as the Pelosi and her team make way for a new era.

A former corporate lawyer Carl Heastie, a Democratic came the first Black person to serve as the speaker of the New York State Assembly, bonded with Jeffries on the campaign trail two decades ago over a love of hip-hop.

"Hakeem had that 'it' factor," Heastie said. "He stands out in the room."

Associated Press

If Jeffries is chosen to serve as the minority leader, the Democrats will be led in both chambers of Congress by men from Brooklyn Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Brooklyn native, lives in a neighborhood near where Jeffries lives with his wife and two sons.

His district includes the Black cultural hub of the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, home to Jackie Robinson and once represented by Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress.

The job of minority leader puts Jeffries in line to become speaker if Democrats regain House control. "Another glass ceiling broken," said Rep. James Mc-Govern, D-Mass., about his colleague's rise. "I look forward to be able to call him speaker."

Jeffries first won election to the House in 2012, replacing Democrat Edolphus Towns, who decided to retire instead of facing what was expected to be a tough primary challenge from Jeffries.

Growing up in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood, Jeffries attended New York City public

schools before graduating from the State University of New York at Binghamton, where he studied political science. He received a master's in public policy from Georgetown University and a law degree from New York University.

He clerked for a federal judge and worked for several years at a New York City law firm and later as a corporate lawyer for CBS. His first runs for public office were strong back-to-back but unsuccessful attempts to unseat longtime Democratic state Assemblyman Roger Green starting in 2000.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who was Green's campaign manager, said Jeffries was then "an up-and-coming insurgent" who "wanted to make his mark in central Brooklyn — and in fact, he did." When the seat opened in 2006, Jeffries won. He served six years in Albany, working on criminal justice and civil rights legislation. He sponsored a law that stopped the New York Police Department from keeping a database of personal details of every person stopped and questioned under the department's controversial stopand-frisk tactic, even if the people were released and not charged with a crime. He continued that work in Congress. After the 2014 chokehold death in New York of Eric Garner, a Black man whose gasps of "I can't breathe!" became part a national rallying cry against police brutality, Jeffries sought to pass legislation that would make the chokehold maneuver a federal crime.

James, who rose up through the same Brooklyn Democratic political circles as Jeffries and worked with him on affordable housing issues when she was on the City Council, said she reached out to Jeffries on Thursday night.

"I texted him and urged him not to forget the residents of public housing we served," James said. "And he answered back and said. 'Never.'"



Garland names special counsel to lead Trump-related probes

By ERIC TUCKER and **MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Merrick Garland named a special counsel on Friday to oversee the Justice Department's investigation into the presence of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate as well as key aspects of a separate probe involving the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and efforts to undo the 2020 election.

The move, announced just three days after Trump formally launched his 2024 candidacy, is a recognition of the unmistakable political implications of two investigations that involve not only a former president but also a current White House hopeful.

Garland said Friday that Trump's announcement of his presidential candidacy and President Joe Biden's likely 2024 run were factors in his decision to appoint Jack Smith, a veteran prosecutor, to be the special counsel. Garland said the appointment would allow prosecutors to continue



Jack Smith, then the Department of Justice's chief of the Public Integrity Section, poses for photo at the Department of Justice in Washington, on Aug. 24, 2010.

Associated Press the former president's anmidterm elections are over

the special counsel will still report to Garland, who has ultimate say of whether to bring charges.

Smith, a veteran prosecutor who led the Justice Department's public integrity section in Washington and who later served as the actina chief federal prosecutor in Nashville, Tennessee, during the Obama administration, is set to begin his

work "immediately." Garland said. Smith has also been the chief prosecutor for the special court in the Hague that is tasked with investigating international war crimes.

The Justice Department described Smith as a registered independent, an effort to blunt any attack of perceived political bias. Trump is a Republican, and Biden is a Democrat.

"Throughout his career, Jack Smith has built a reputation as an impartial and determined prosecutor who leads teams with energy and focus to follow the facts wherever they lead," Garland said.

"As special counsel, he will exercise independent prosecutorial judgment to decide whether charges should be brought."

The special counsel's probe will combine the investigation into "whether any person or entity unlawfully interfered with the transfer of power following the 2020 presidential election" and the investigation into the classified documents at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

ment of Justice has long recognized that in certain extraordinary cases, it is in the public's interest to appoint a special prosecutor to independently manage an investigation and prosecution," Garland said from the Justice Department's podium. "Based on recent

developments, including

their work "indisputably

guided" only by the facts

and the law. "The Depart-

nouncement that he is a candidate for president in the next election and the sitting president's stated intention to be a candidate as well, I have concluded that it is in the public interest to appoint a special counsel." Though the appointment installs a new supervisor atop the probes both of which are expected to accelerate now that the

Biden says inflation help is coming but 'will take time'

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and **AAMER MADHANI Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden cautioned on Friday that "it's going to take time" for inflation to recede, but he offered fresh assurance that legislation he signed earlier this year will soon help limit costs for health care and energy.

He made the remarks while meeting with business and labor leaders in his first public event since returning from an around-the-world trip to Egypt, Cambodia and Indonesia.

Biden has been encour- She is expected to return to aged by the Democrats' Princeton University, where stronger-than-expected performance in the midterm elections, but he not authorized to publicly could be entering a perilous stretch when it comes to the economy.

ket to try to allay concerns about a potential recession. However, the Federal Reserve continues to try to slow economic growth by raising interest rates to battle inflation.

It's a delicate situation that Biden will be navigating amid turnover in his economic team. Cecilia Rouse, a labor economist who became the first Black woman to lead the Council of Economic Advisers, will leave the administration in the spring, according to a White House official.

she has been on academic leave. The official was discuss personnel changes and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The White House has em- The pending departure

phasized a strong jobs mar- comes as Biden's term reaches its halfway point, often a time of transition for a presidential administration. Bloomberg was first to report Rouse's planned departure, and it said Brian Deese, director of Biden's National Economic Council, plans to depart next year.

> The official said there was no timeline for Deese to leave.

> Another key member of Biden's economic team, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, has said she wants to remain in the administra-

"I plan to stay," she told MS-NBC last month. "I am very excited about the president's economic program. There is a lot to implement." There was additional turnover in the Biden administration earlier this month when Chris Magnus, head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, was forced out of his job.

Immigration authorities have struggled to manage the flow of migrants toward the United States' border with Mexico, a frequent point of criticism from Republicans.

At Friday's event, Biden said his trip overseas showed "the United States is as well or better positioned as any nation in the world to lead the world on the economy in the years ahead." \square



Cecilia Rouse, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, speaks during a press briefing at the White House, March 4, 2022. **Associated Press**



3 top law schools quit US News rankings over equity concerns

By ANNIE MA Associated Press

The University of California, Berkeley's law school on Thursday joined the law programs at Harvard and Yale in pulling out of U.S. News & World Report's rankings over concerns that they punish efforts to attract students from a broad range of backgrounds. Deans of all three law schools said the magazine's influential ranking system is biased against programs meant to increase socioeconomic diversity, support lowerincome students and encourage the pursuit of public service.

"We have reached a point where the rankings process is undermining the core commitments of the legal profession," Yale Law School Dean Heather K. Gerken wrote in a blog post Wednesday.

U.S. News executive chairman and CEO Eric Gertler said the rankings are meant to help students make the best decision in choosing a law school.

"We will continue to fulfill our journalistic mission of ensuring that students can rely on the best and most accurate information in making that decision," Gertler said in a written



Students walk through the Harvard Law School area on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., on Nov. 19, 2002.

statement.

"As part of our mission, we must continue to ensure that law schools are held accountable for the education they will provide to these students and that mission does not change with these recent announcements."

In a later statement, U.S. News said it would continue to rank all fully accredited law schools, regardless of whether they submit their

delayed until 2024 to give

the government time to

The ruling Thursday by U.S.

District Judge James Boas-

berg came on the heels

of his July ruling that new,

design them.

data. While elite universities have enough prestige to forgo the rankings, other schools often feel pressure to compete, said Walter Kimbrough, interim executive director of the Black Men's Research Institute at Morehouse College. They then pursue metrics that may not serve prospective students well.

"The way you move up in the rankings is that you become more selective, which means you're keeping more people out, particularly a diversity of people," he said.

Associated Press

Addressing the root causes of inequity, at law schools and in higher education more broadly, Kimbrough said, requires institutions to go further.

Smaller schools that serve a high proportion of lowerincome, disadvantaged students do not get the same recognition and philanthropic support that elite schools receive.

"HBCUs live that work every day and don't get the same kind of rewards, both in terms of kudos and in terms of financial resources to do that work," he said.

Not long after the Yale announcement, Harvard Law School Dean John Manning wrote in his own blog post Wednesday that he and other law school leaders had previously expressed concerns to U.S. News about the rankings. In particular, he said the prioritization of LSAT scores and college grades encourages law schools to use scholarships to attract higher-scoring candidates, directing resources away from need-based financial aid that would help less affluent students.

Berkeley law school dean Erwin Chemerinsky wrote in a letter published online Thursday that there is not a benefit to participating in the rankings that outweighs the costs.

There are other rankings systems, such as one published by Washington Monthly, that assign more weight to factors such as social mobility, research, and promotion of public service.

Lobster rules to protect whale will wait 2 years, judge says

fishing gear.

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

A federal judge has ruled that new lobster fishing restrictions designed to conserve rare whales will be



A lobster rears its claws after being caught off Spruce Head, Maine, Aug. 31, 2021.

Associated Press

stronger rules are needed to protect the North Atlantic right whale from extinction. The whales are vulnerable to entanglement in

Boasberg previously ruled that fishing restrictions issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service didn't go far enough to protect the whales. The agency must issue new rules by December 2024, he ruled this

Environmentalists and fishing industry members have long argued about the rules. Fishermen argue that stricter rules could cripple the industry, which harvests one of the most popular and lucrative seafood items in the country. Conservation groups have cit-

ed entanglement in gear as an existential threat to the whales, which number 340 and are in decline.

The two sides came to rare accord over the decision to delay new rules to 2024. However, lobstermen said the industry still faces a grave threat from rules that prevent them from fishing.

"The bottom line is the court's decision provides us some additional time to ensure that a final whale plan is based on the best available science and commercial data, but not enough time to help recover right whales without needlessly sacrificing the Maine lobster fishery," said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

Conservation groups have pushed for the use of rope-free fishing gear to avoid entanglements, which are one of the two big threats to the whales, along with collisions with ships.

"A new and improved rule will keep right whales safer from deadly entanglements in fishing gear, so I'm glad the court realized the need to update the regulations," said Kristen Monsell, oceans legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

"But if we're going to prevent the right whale's extinction, we need to eliminate entanglements entirely, even non-fatal incidents, and the only way is to move to ropeless gear quickly."



Hungary will not support EU aid plan to Ukraine, Orban says

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary will not support a European Union plan to provide Ukraine with billions in budget assistance next year, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Friday, digging in on his country's blocking of a major aid package the EU unveiled last week. Speaking at a conference in Budapest, Orban said that while Hungary condemns Russia's aggression and supports the Ukrainian people, he is not willing to put Ukraine's interests before those of his own country.

The aid plan would provide 18 billion euros (\$18.6 billion) to Ukraine next year in regular payments to help keep its energy and health care facilities running as well as to fund salaries and pension schemes.

Hungary's refusal to endorse it threatens to derail the plan completely since changes to EU budget rules require the unanimous approval of member countries.

Orban, widely seen as Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest EU ally, has also vocally opposed the bloc's sanctions against Moscow for the war in Ukraine, though he has ultimately



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban listens to a question during a press conference with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Austria's Chancellor Karl Nehammer after their trilateral meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

always voted for them.

As an alternative to the EU aid plan, Orban recommended that the EU's 27 members determine how much they are willing to provide to Ukraine and distribute the sum in a "proportional and fair way" among themselves without jointly taking out loans to make the payments.

He said Hungary would be willing to provide Ukraine

with 60-70 billion forints (\$152-\$178 million) from its own budget on bilateral terms an amount he said would not fundamentally harm Hungary's national interests.

The Hungarian government's threat to veto the aid package for Ukraine comes after it scuttled EUwide adoption of a global corporate tax deal in June and campaigned heavily

at home against sanctions on Russia.

Orban argues such measures are destroying Europe's economy and drawing the EU closer to entering the war itself.

But some in the EU see the moves as a sign that Budapest is exerting leverage in an attempt to force the bloc to release billions in economic recovery funds and other money that was

held up over concerns that Orban has curtailed democratic norms and violated rule-of-law standards.

Asked last week about Hungary blocking EU financial aid to Ukraine, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the stakes were for delivering the assistance to Ukraine as winter approaches.

"Our financial and humanitarian support and our support for civilian infrastructure in the framework of winter aid is not a normal European matter in which one gambles and negotiates back and forth about money," Baerbock said in a reference to Hungary's apparent veto.

"This European financial support is saving lives every day, and I think and believe that everyone is aware and should be aware of that in these difficult times," she said.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, said the aid to Ukraine would involve loans with extremely favorable terms worth around 1.5 billion euros every month, possibly starting in January.

Ukraine would not have to reimburse the funds for at least a decade, and EU member countries would cover the interest costs.

Sweden: Traces of explosives found at Baltic Sea pipelines

By JARI TANNER Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Investigators found traces of explosives at the Baltic Sea site where two natural gas pipelines were damaged in an act of "gross sabotage," the prosecutor leading Sweden's preliminary investigation said Friday.

Mats Ljungqvist of the Swedish Prosecution Authority said the investigators carefully documented the area where the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines ruptured in September, causing significant methane leaks. The parallel undersea pipelines run from Russia to Germany.

"Analysis carried out shows traces of explosives on

several of the foreign objects that were found" at the site, Ljungqvist said in a statement.

The prosecution authority said the preliminary investigation was "very complex and comprehensive" and further scrutiny would show whether anyone could be charged "with suspicion of crime."

Investigators in Sweden,
Denmark and Germany
are looking into what happened. Danish officials
confirmed in October that
there was extensive damage to the pipelines caused
by "powerful explosions."

The leaks, which stopped after several days, occurred in international waters but within the exclusive

economic zones of Denmark and Sweden. Investigators have not given indications of whom they think might be responsible but reported earlier that the blasts were likely to have involved several hundred pounds of explosives.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday it was "very important to find those who are behind the explosion."

Sweden's findings of "a sabotage act or a terrorist act you can call it whatever you like" confirm "the information that the Russian side has had," Peskov said. Moscow needs to wait for a full damage assessment to decide whether to repair the pipelines, he said.

Nord Stream 1 carried Russian gas to Germany until Moscow cut off supplies at the end of August.

Nord Stream 2 never en-

tered service as Germany suspended its certification process shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine in February.



In this picture provided by Swedish Coast Guard, a leak from Nord Stream 2 is seen, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

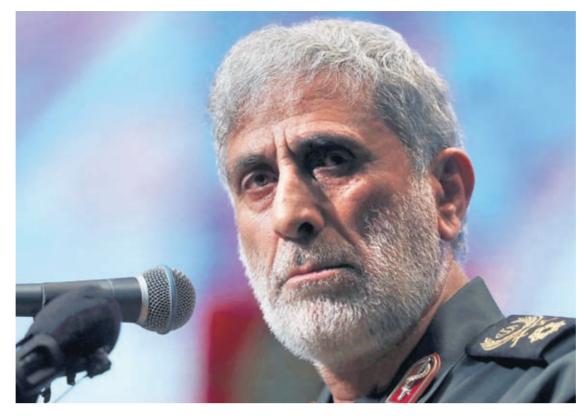
Associated Press



Blaming Kurds for unrest, Iran threatens Iraq with offensive

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB **Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — A senior Iranian military official visiting Baghdad this week threatened Iraq with a ground military operation in the country's north if the Iraqi army does not fortify the countries' shared border against Kurdish opposition groups, multiple Iraqi and Kurdish officials said. Such an offensive, if carried out, would be unprecedented in Iraq, and raise the specter of regional fallout from Iran's domestic unrest, which Tehran has portrayed as a foreign plot without offering evidence. The warning was delivered this week to Iraqi and Kurdish officials in Baghdad by Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Ghaani, who arrived in the capital Monday on an unannounced two-day visit. The force is an elite unit within Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Iran alleges that Kurdish opposition groups long exiled in northern Iraq are inciting anti-government protests in Iran and smuggling weapons into the country. Iranian authorities have not provided evidence of these allegations which Kurdish groups have denied.



General Esmail Ghaani, head of Iran's expeditionary Quds Force, speaks in a ceremony in Tehran, Iran, Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Associated Press

the Iranian warning is, but it puts Baahdad in a predicament. It is the first time Iranian officials have publicly threatened a ground operation after months of cross-border tensions and asking Iraq to disarm opposition groups active inside its territories.

Now in their second month, protests demanding the overthrow of Iran's clerical rulers erupted after It is unclear how serious the death of a 22-year-old

Kurdish-Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, in policy custody in Tehran.

Thousands have been arrested and hundreds killed as Iranian authorities wield live ammunition to keep control of the streets, but the protests show no signs of abating. Amini's home Kurdish areas have often been at the center of the

Iran has blamed foreign meddling for instigating the protests, and has pointed the finger at Kurdish opposition groups in northern Iraq, accusing them of direct involvement and having ties to Israel. Tehran has repeatedly launched missile attacks targeting the bases of these groups inside Iraq, killing at least a dozen and wounding many more.

Ghaani arrived in Baghdad a day after the latest Iranian attack targeting opposition bases in Koya, in Irbil province, in which at least three were killed.

He met with Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and other leaders of the Coordination Framework alliance, President Abdul Latif Rashid, a Kurd, and Iran-backed militia factions. Sudani came to power as the choice candidate of the Coordination Framework, an alliance made up of mostly Iran-backed parties.

Ghaani's demands were two-fold: Disarm the bases of Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in northern Iraq, and fortify the porous borders with Iraqi troops to prevent infiltration.

If Baghdad did not meet the demands, Iran would launch a military sweep with ground forces and continue to bombard opposition bases, Ghaani told his Iraqi counterparts, according to two Shiite political figures, two militia officials and a senior Kurdish official. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media about the sensitive meeting. The area of Iran's concern falls under the authority of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region and would require Baghdad to negotiate joint coordination.

Brazil's Lula looks to revive neglected ties with Portugal

LISBON, Portugal (AP) president-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva met Friday with the president of Portugal in an effort to rekindle ties between the two Portuguese-speaking countries after four years of cool relations.

"Portugal is a brother country and an important partner for Brazil in Europe," Brazil's incoming president, nicknamed Lula, tweeted ahead of the talks. "We will resume our discussions in the best interests of our two countries."

Da Silva and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa held talks behind closed doors at the presidential palace in Lisbon. More than 200,000 Brazilian

largest foreign community. elections last October that

immigrants live in Portugal, Some 80,000 were regismaking them by far the tered to vote in Brazilian



Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, right, chats with Brazil president-elect Luis Inacio Lula da Silva as he arrives at the Belem Presidential palace in Lisbon, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. **Associated Press**

returned da Silva to power. Portugal is the second most popular choice for emigrating Brazilians after the United States.

Da Silva takes office on Jan. 1, but he is keen to set a new tone in Brazil's foreign relations.

He flew to Lisbon from the U.N. climate conference in Egypt where he vowed to crack down on illegal deforestation in the Amazon and resume relationships with countries that finance forest protection efforts.

That has set da Silva apart from outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro whom he defeated on Oct. 30.

During Bolsonaro's fouryear term, no bilateral summit took place with Portugal's leaders.

During his two consecutive terms between 2003-2010, da Silva cultivated ties with Portugal and Portuguese officials are hoping for a return to those days.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao Gomes Cravinho says bilateral trade hasn't grown under Bolsonaro, adding that joint renewable energy projects might offer a new way forward. Da Silva was also due to

meet later Friday with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

Da Silva belongs to Brazil's leftist Workers' Party. Costa, Portugal's government chief for the past seven years, leads the center-left Socialist Party.



Errol de Freitas, president of San Nicolas Business Association: "We want calculated and structured development"

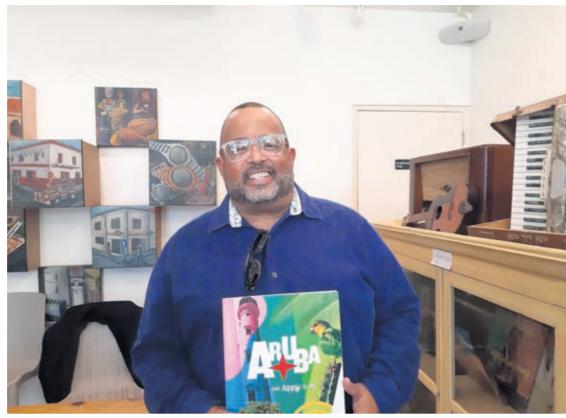
ORANJESTAD - San Nicolas Business Association for a few years has been engaged in efforts for the development of the district of San Nicolas, and recently a change in directive were announced. The new board consists of 9 members for the period of 2022-204, with Errol de Freitas elected as new president.

In an interview with our reporter, De Freitas expressed that the vision that he now has as president is a living document, with an organization that has been around for over 50 years. He said that the circumstances around the district change, but the vision for progress and commerce remains intact, not only for San Nicolas but for the entire area denominated 'pariba di brug' (over the bridge).

During the pandemic they assumed the challenge to also be involved with the community. Currently, because San Nicolas is in everyone's view recently because it is the last frontier for development, the association needs to be aware of how it will be developed to insure that the community is involved, as they are the ones who need to develop and enjoy. This is the shortterm vision, he explained.

Currently they are busy with the formation of the new directive which will take place in the next few days, after which they will call on the press to inform the community of the cardinal points that they will be standing for during the next two years.

The National Transformation Map that was presented during a political With the construction of forum in EPB San Nicolas, according to De Freitas was to involve the voters of the 'pariba di brug' area to become aware and hear from the politicians what their plans are for development.



the process of governing, De Freitas said that SNBA was the only organization that brought a manifesto to the government, with 20 points. Some of these have already been achieved, namely Medial Institute San Nicolas (IMSan), which became an independent institute. Around 42 percent of the population lives 'pariba di brug'.

De Freitas said that they have been holding various meetings with the government, pending with projects in Sero Colorado, the completion of the Main Street, among others. They also are giving support regarding the 'red zone' and gave support to the Aruba Art Fair. "This means that there are more ways for us to help. Currently we are in conversation with the Chamber of Commerce. because the idea is that we need to start preparing our people for what's coming", he said.

three hotels in this area De Freitas says that they need to make sure that the beaches are ample, clean and organized in a nice way. "All that we are doing are the things that we cannot do if the community is not involved. It is a relation-When the government is in ship between us and the

community. We cannot do it on our own, and we don't want to do it like that either."

On the 6th of December there will be a Council of Ministers in this area, together with seven companies that are ready to launch. He said they are interested in developing the Main Street, searching for buildings and opportunities in San Nicolas.

"Tourists don't come to San Nicolas for our perfection, they come for our imperfection, and if you realize it you will see everything that is music, art, culture and food, and authentic part of the island", he said. In his opinion, the district of San Nicolas still lacks, for example, an area like Linear Park or where people can exercise, walk or ride their bicycles. A lot of places in Colony don't have lights, and he said that a few months ago an accident took place where sadly three people passed away. "This is the moment that they need to allow development to take place", he said.

Regarding the government, De Freitas pointed out that they are receiving attention, but the realization is still missing. However, there is a will. "There is not a single instance when we knock on the government's door and they are not ready to receive us, that is something that is very posi-

He also touched on the situation of the Secrets Baby Beach hotel. De Freitas said that this needs to be clarified at this moment one way or another. SNBA is not directly involved, but the construction is continuing, he said.

"And they need to continue because they need to open their doors, otherwise it's not convenient either. I think general willingness is a necessity and we need development, but the difference is that we want a calculated and structured development where the tourist can enjoy, but the people of San Nicolas and the Aruban community also, and that is important."

Finalizing, he said that this coming December, Christmas will be inaugurated in San Nicolas with a fair with everything that is from pariba. He called on interested parties to participate in this, like vendors, to contact the association through their Facebook page.





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ARUBA VOLUNTEERS – A new platform for volunteer work

Oranjestad – Aruba Volunteers, an initiative of CEDE Aruba, is a website where nonprofit organizations can easily recruit and retain volunteers for their community related initiatives. Volunteers can find and register for volunteer work all year round through the website ArubaVolunteers.org.

Organizations will have their own digital presence on the website and volunteers interested in a certain vacancy can sign up for a volunteer activity. It is very simple to register on the website, but if help is needed, CEDE Aruba will assist all year round and they also respond to the supply and demand of volunteers, volunteer work and participation of companies in dif-



ferent ways.

A volunteer can also register for the volunteer pool with preferred wishes for volunteer work, so an organization can contact them for a project. By doing this there is no commitment to anything yet.

Volunteer work and activities can vary from one-time jobs like a beach cleanup, a one-time installation project or helping at a sports event, to repeating projects as reading to clients at an elderly home or helping out with a gardening project organized by a non-profit organization. If a



foundation needs a board member, they can also post their vacancy on the platform for example.

With volunteer work you meet new people, you get to know organizations you have never heard of, you contribute to the community, you get a good feeling

because you are contributing, and you can learn new skills and grow.

Many organizations can't function without the help of volunteers and that is why ArubaVolunteers. org should be visited by everyone!

Mobile TV sets for the elderly at Maris Stella

In September, Restaurant Week 2022 took place in Aruba, during which locals and visitors could enjoy a special dinner for a special reduced price. Like every year, organizer Aruba Wine and Dine dedicated a part of the proceeds to charity. This time elderly/nursing home "Huize Maris Stella" in Savaneta was chosen as they had indicated a need for mobile video equipment to allow their patients to watch TV in the privacy of their rooms. Vincent Sterring, Zorgmanager of Ixoria at Maris Stella, says "We don't have the means to have a TV set in every room and with the mobile Tv sets we have received from Aruba Wine and Dine, we can now provide this service to our patients. It directly improves their quality of life and therefore we are incredibly grateful for this donation."

Aruba Wine and Dine recently delivered multiple mobile TV sets, which were gratefully accepted by the nursing team and management of Maris Stella. The restaurants of Aruba Wine and Dine that participated in Restaurant Week, are Café the Plaza, Fishes & More, Hadicurari, Mambo Jambo, MooMba Beach, Nos Clubhuis, Que Pasa Restaurant & Winebar, Salt & Pepper, Surfside Beach Bar, Tango Argentine Grill and Willem's Dutch Pancakes.





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Rain brings mosquitos, and mosquitos cause diseases

ORANJESTAD - Aruba has Rain water or any clean aches and can even be been experiencing a very active rain season which is appreciated by many but also comes with unavoidable issues for healthcare in Aruba, especially when rainwater becomes stagnant in containers.

Aedes Aegypti, the whitelegged mosquito, can spread diseases like Dengue, Zika, or Chikungunya.

water that becomes stagnant can become a breeding place for these mosquitos. Mosquitos breeding places are a nuisance for the entire neighborhood and increase the chance of these diseases spread-

Dengue can cause severe symptoms like high fever, and body headache,

fatal.

Zika causes fever, rash, headache, joint pain, red eyes, and muscle pain, while Chikungunya causes fever, joint pain, muscle pain, or rash.

The team of the Yellow Fever and Mosquito Control GKMB of the Department of Public Health DVG is going around in neighborhoods every day and visiting each home to create awareness

about the issue and help homeowners identify possible breeding areas for these mosquitos.

This way, each citizen can help themselves and reduce the amount of whitelegged mosquitos near

their home and in their GKMB is neighborhood. also doing its duties by visiting the areas to clear public areas and dispose of stagnant water that can

The origin of the mosquito problem is mosquito breeding places. Breeding spots mean more mosquitos and mosquito-related diseases.

become breeding areas.

The community is responsible for actively help reduce breeding areas by starting at home. Make sure there is no stagnant water in plant

pots, flower vases, pet water bowls, old tires, or any open container in and around the house.

The GKMB will only spray in areas with Dengue outbreaks, but this is effective against adult mosquitos and not against the larvas. One can only break the mosquito breeding cycle when it runs out of breeding spots. Involvement if the community is essential to eliminate breeding grounds during the mosquito season.





Palapa and Gazebo project at Mangel Halto beach will start next week

ORANJESTAD - On November 17, 2022, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Dangui Oduber, announced another beautification project, starting soon.

Mangel Halto beach in Pos Chiquito. The palapas deteriorated and were vandalized. The Ministry of Tourism and the Aruba Tourism The Arikok National Park Authority, decided to upgrade this beach and approached the Aruba Na-

renovation, as this beach is under the management of the FPNA. They will build 11 new gazebos and refurbish three palapas.

loved by many beachgotion of Gazebos at the next week, and the Mangel cals and visitors. Halto beach will soon shine again. ATA and the FPNA will finance this project.

Foundation (FPNA) is an independent foundation responsible for protected tional Park (FPNA) for the land and marine areas

conservation and management in Aruba. FPNA will collaborate with ATA in the design of the palapas and Gazebos. The aim is to make them blend in with Mangel Halto is a beach the area landscape and nature to create a balance This project entails palapas ers and tourists and is worth between conservation efrestoration and construc- the facelift. Work will start forts and leisure of the lo-

> Manael Halto is a natural area protected by the "Marine Protected Area" (MPA) Mangel Halto Park. It is essential to protect and preserve this area to comply with the ambition of sustainable tourism, which



benefits nature conservation for future generations.

The ministry of Tourism works according to its vision and policy focused on niche tourism. It entails lowvolume high-value tourists with an annual income of over \$150,000. These tourists have certain expectations, and it is crucial to enhance the Aruba product continuously to cater to them. Aruba is known as a quality destination, and constant investment is required to keep this expectation.



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

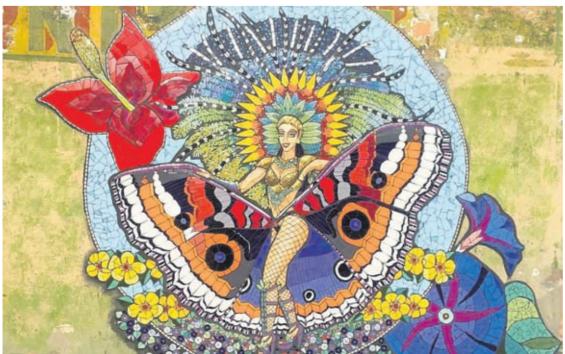
SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and is-Aruba's second largest city

and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics land charm. San Nicolas is had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly









visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly

beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer.



Liaison of Aruban Olympic Committee visits Curaçao

ORANJESTAD – Thakaidzwa Doran, liaison of Aruban Olympic Committee recently visited Curaçao in the context of Curaçaoan athletes participating in regional, continental and Olympic Games representing Aruba.

"Since the year 2019, have been working in collaboration with the Aruban Olympic Committee. This began since the Panamerican Games in Lima, Pery, where Curação competed under the flag of Aruba with three athletes, since they were not able to participate representing Curaçao", he said. "After this we began evaluating how we can continue helpina high-performance athletes from Curação to continue participating under the umbrella of the Aruban Olympic Committee, but in this case, receiving financial and technical help from Olympic Solidarity of the International Olympic Committee, IOC."



According to Mr. Doran, time was dedicated to analyzing the entire process under the technical direction of the Aruban Olympic Committee and to reach an agreement so that some athletes can begin with the preparation process for classification for

the Central American and Caribbean Games in San Salvador, as well as the Panamerican Games in Santiago 2023.

Athletes AmirDaou, Philip Elhage (shooting), Ingrid Gonesh (mixed team shooting), Just van Aanholt (sail), and Rob Timmermans (karate) are already busy with heavy preparations for this and are in the program of the Aruban Olympic Committee.

Cyclist Lisa Groothuesheidkamp confronted certain difficulties to complete the process of changing the license in order to be able to compete for Aruba.

The Curaçaoan athletes are already working ac-

cording to the rules and criteria placed by the technical direction of Aruban Olympic Committee, and each of them must comply with all the requisites in order to be part of the classification program and also to receive the necessary help coming from the IOC.

Taking into account the new policy of the Aruban Olympic Committee after the Covid-19 pandemic, everything was adapted, and the Curacaoan athletes who have an interest in participating under the Aruban flag became aware of this. Here communication plays a big role so that the Curaçaoan athletes can be constantly aware regarding the development of the process and program of the Aruban Olympic Committee, and it is here where the involvement of Mr. Doran is crucial, to avoid any eventuality.

The role of Thakai Doran in Curaçao means that he is the point of contact for the athletes in Curaçao who have a wish to enter the program of the Aruban Olympic Committee, as well as helping the federations in Curaçao that want to compete in the Panamerican Games, by contacting the Aruban federations to see if work can be done in this regard.

Finalizing, Doran said he is very thankful for these opportunities, seeing that Aruba is awarding the possibility for athletes from Curaçao to compete in a higher level of world sport.











CROSSWO By THOMAS J

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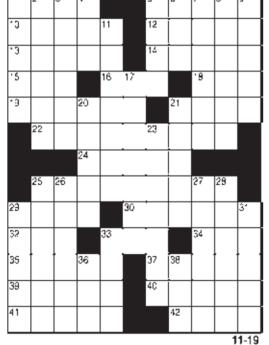
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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Us. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different,

11-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

KBLKPV LATOGIGO OAGVTID VASGXAOP KXAJD VASGDNWTC DNGT W IGKBWMGO W LKV

VASGXAOP, = BWBP DASBWT Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO BE INTELLIGENT, READ THEM FAIRY TALES, IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE MORE INTELLIGENT, READ THEM MORE FAIRY TALES. — ALBERT EINSTEIN

Millennial Money: What makes a Black Friday deal worth it?

By LAUREN SCHWAHN of NerdWallet

Black Friday sales are everywhere. Judging by retailers' advertisements stuffed with language like "must-have deals" and "can't-miss epic finds," you'd be led to believe that every deal is too good to pass up.

But what actually makes a Black Friday deal worth pursuing? An item's reduced price, availability and affordability are key elements.

Here's what to consider before you buy.

THE ITEM IS SELLING AT THE **BEST PRICE**

Prices fluctuate throughout the year, making it difficult to recognize whether the deal being offered is actually the best of the best. Most people couldn't say exactly how much a particular air fryer sold for two weeks ago or two months ago, and whether that differs from the price today.

"Things that you buy every week, you notice the price going up. Where if it's something you buy maybe once a year or not very of-



Black Friday shoppers wearing face masks shop at the Citadel Outlets in Commerce, Calif., Nov. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

ten, like a pair of shoes, you don't know what price is normal or what it was the last time," says Martin Block , professor emeritus in Medill's integrated marketing communications program at Northwestern University. What can you do to become a better judge? Start tracking prices now, says John Boyd , co-founder of ShopSavvy, a price comparison app. Using an app to explore a product's price history can help you see through retailers' marketing tactics.

"Sometimes a good sale is really hard to detect because you're just being bombarded with 'Oh, we've got this great sale and it's X percent off or Y percent off,' and there's no context at all," Boyd says. Get familiar with prices in the days leading up to Black Friday, Nov. 25 this year. ShopSavvy and other shopping tools, like PayPal Honey, can also alert you to price drops for specific items and compare prices across retailers so you can find the best deals.

Amazon CEO says layoffs will extend into next year



The Amazon logo is seen in Douai, northern France, Thursday, April 16, 2020.

Associated Press



By HALELUYA HADERO **AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The mass layoffs that began in Amazon's corporate ranks this week will extend into next year, CEO Andy Jassy said Thursday.

In a note sent to employees, Jassy said the company told workers in its devices and books divisions about layoffs on Wednesday. He said it also offered some other employees a voluntary buyout offer.

"I've been in this role now for about a year and a half, and without a doubt, this is the most difficult decision we've made during that time (and, we've had to make some very tough calls over the past couple of years, particularly during the heart of the pandemic)," Jassy wrote in the memo.

New measures for size, as world's people surpass 8 billion

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — What is bigger: A ronna or a quetta? Scientists meeting outside of Paris on Friday who have expanded the world's measuring unit systems for the first time this century as the global population surges past 8 billion have the answer.

Rapid scientific advances and vast worldwide data storage on the web, in smartphones and in the cloud mean that the very terms used to measure things in weight and size need extending too. And one British scientist led the push Friday to incorporate bold new, tongue-twisting prefixes on the gigantic and even the minuscule scale.

"Most people are familiar with prefixes like milli- as in milligram. But these are prefixes for the biggest and smallest levels ever measured," Dr Richard Brown, head of Metrology at the U.K.'s National Physical Laboratory who proposed the four new prefixes, told The Associated Press.

"In the last 30 years, the datasphere has increased exponentially, and data scientists have realized they will no longer have words to describe the levels of storage. These terms are upcoming, the future," he explained.

There's the gargantuan "ronna" (that's 27 zeros after the one) and its big brother the "quetta" – (that's 30 zeros).

Their ant-sized counterparts are the "ronto" (27 zeros after the decimal point), and the "quecto" (with 30 zeros after the decimal point) representing the smaller numbers needed for quantum science and particle physics. Brown presented the new prefixes to officials from 64 nations attending the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles, outside of Paris who approved them on Friday. The conference, which takes place every four years in France, is the supreme authority of the International Bureau of



The entrance of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures is pictured in Sevres, outside Paris, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

Weights and Measures. The new terms take effect immediately, marking the first time since 1991 that any new additions have been made. Brown said the new terms also make it easier to describe things scientists already know about reeling off a list of the smallest and biggest things discovered by humankind.

Did you know that the mass of an electron is one rontogram? And that a byte of data on a mobile increases the phone's mass by one quectogram?

Downtown

Further from home, the planet Jupiter is two just quettagrams in mass. While, incredibly, "the diameter of the entire observable universe is just one ronnameter," Brown said. He explained how the new names were not chosen at random: The first letter of the new prefixes had to be one not used in other prefixes and units.

"There were only the letters 'r' and 'q' that weren't already taken. Following that, there's a precedent that they sound similar to

How to reach us!

TEDAY

er from home, the det Jupiter is two just number prefixes end with tagrams in mass. an 'a' and smaller numbers with an 'o,'" he added. ter of the entire obustle universe is just one determined from the from the following states of the determined from the following states and that big number prefixes end with an 'o,'" he added. "It was high time. (We) able universe is just one

need new words as things expand," Brown said. "In just a few decades, the world has become a very different place."



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LPGA purses will top \$100M in 2023, a record for tour

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — More than \$100 million will be awarded to LPGA players for the first time in 2023, an increase of about 18% over what was planned for this season and more than doubling what was paid out on the tour just a decade ago.

And in the eyes of LPGA Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan, that's a good start.

The LPGA's 33 official events next year will have a combined \$101.4 million in purses, the tour announced Friday while unveiling the schedule. But reaching nine digits in total purse for the first time hardly means that the tour has reached its target, Marcoux Samaan said.

"I think we're trying to just grow as much as we can possibly grow," Marcoux Samaan said. "I think it is a milestone, not a target. I think it just symbolizes the next level of evolution for the tour. But I don't think we feel like we're done. We feel like there's much more investment to be had in the women's game and we're passionate about getting that." The schedule has events in 11 states and 12 countries. It has two



LPGA Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan, center, speaks during a media roundtable at the LPGA CME Group Tour Championship golf tournament, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, at the Tiburón Golf Club in Naples, Fla.

Associated Press

tournaments if they happen in China. The LPGA has not played there since October 2019, canceling each of its last five planned events in China after the coronavirus pandemic.

For now, there's some hope about getting back to China. "I think we're just still waiting to hear and we told the players that we'll keep them posted, but we have the contract and it's on the schedule, and we'll let them know as that

evolves," Marcoux Samaan said. The five women's golf majors account for \$37.9 million of the planned purses, led by \$10 million set to be paid out at the U.S. Women's Open at Pebble Beach next July. That tournament is immediately preceded on the schedule by the Women's PGA Championship at Baltrusol, a \$9 million event.

That's \$19 million to be paid out in a span of just two events, something that was unfathomable in women's golf just a few years ago. The last four of the five majors occur in an eight-week, seven-tournament span.

"I think part of it is because we we are playing at some phenomenal golf courses and a bit of those decisions were based on availability at the golf courses and the ability to to get in and play in these really important and iconic venues," Marcoux Samaan said. "So, I do think in the ideal load,

those that would be spread out more."

Official purses for this season wound up reaching about \$93.5 million, mainly through increases to what was offered at the majors. The plan entering 2022 was for purses to be \$85.7 million.

For now, Saudi-funded LIV Golf which will offer \$405 million in 14 men's events in 2023 has not revealed any formal plans about trying to entice women's players, though CEO Greg Norman has mentioned the possibility. The LPGA hasn't had to worry about LIV, yet.

"A fractured golf environment is not good for anyone," Marcoux Samaan said.

"It's my role as the commissioner, as a steward of this organization, my responsibility to really listen and learn and we are doing that and we'll continue to do that.

There's nothing new to report on it."

Every tournament on the LPGA's 2023 slate carries a purse of at least \$1.5 million, and there are only four with purses that small.

There are 16 tournaments, excluding the majors, with purses of at least \$2 million, including seven of the final eight on the schedule.

Spain overtakes USA for No. 1 spot in FIBA men's rankings

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

For the first time in 12 years, USA Basketball is not atop the world men's rankings. FIBA, the sport's governing body, updated its rankings on Friday and Spain moved into the top spot, a sliver ahead of the U.S.

The four-time defending Olympic champion Americans moved into the top spot after winning the FIBA world championship in 2010, and had been there since.

"It's not exactly a new title and it probably can't be maintained for too long, but it's something so unique, prestigious and historic that I feel tremendously proud of everyone who ... have contributed to it," Spain coach Sergio Scariolo wrote Friday on Twitter. FIBA's rankings were changed in 2017 to a system that only takes results from the most recent eight years into account. That



Canada's Jean-Victor Mukama (8) dunks as teammate Owen Klassen (4) and Panama's Eric Romero (16) react during second-half FIBA World Cup qualifiers basketball game action in Edmonton, Alberta, Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

means the U.S. is no longer reaping the benefits of the 2014 World Cup title, but still is seeing the Olympic gold medals won at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo factoring into the rankings. The U.S. was only seventh at the 2019 World Cup.

Spain won the last World Cup, plus the EuroBasket title earlier this year. The EuroBasket win was Spain's fourth in its last six appearances at the continental championship, all of those wins coming under Scariolo.

Spain is just 1.1 points ahead of the U.S. men now; the margin is 758.6-757.5.

The next 10 spots in the world rankings were unchanged. Australia is third, Argentina

which was No. 1 before the U.S. took that spot in 2010 is fourth, followed by France, Serbia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Greece, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic.
The U.S. is still ranked No. 1

in women's basketball by a nearly 200-point margin over China. The Americans rolled to a

The Americans rolled to a gold at the women's World Cup this year, further cementing their spot atop the list.

USA Basketball also holds comfortable leads atop the worldwide boys and girls rankings.

FIBA's most recent rankings include the men's national teams from 164 countries, as well as 118 women's national teams.



Judge wins AL MVP in runaway; Goldschmidt takes NL prize

By MIKE FITZPATRICK **AP Baseball Writer NEW YORK (AP)** — Aaron Judge's record-setting



TUN

AUD



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge gestures as he runs the bases after hitting a solo home run, his 62nd of the season, during the first inning in the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Oct. 4,

Associated Press

season with the New York Yankees turned that AL MVP debate into a decisive verdict.

Paul Goldschmidt's steady production for the St. Louis Cardinals made him the clear choice in the National League.

And after coming in second before, both prodiaious sluggers powered their way to their first MVP awards Thursday night.

"It's tough to put in words,"

U.S. decathlon champion Garrett Scantling will miss

the Paris Olympics due to

a ban imposed after he fal-

sified an email in trying to

cover up a missed doping

test. The U.S. Anti-Doping

Agency said Friday that the

29-year-old Scantling, who

won national championships earlier this year, had accepted a three-year

ban retroactive to June

27. It means he will miss

next year's world champi-

onships and the Summer

USADA said it had tested

Scantling nine times be-

tween his first and third

failures, but that the three

missed tests in the span of

less than 12 months consti-

tutes a violation. During the

investigation into his third

whereabouts failure, on

whereabouts

Games in 2024.

so-called

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By EDDIE PELLS **AP National Writer**

missed doping tests

work, surrounded by his beaming wife, parents and agents. "It's an incredible, incredible moment. A lot of hard work throughout the years to get to this point."

After hitting 62 home runs to break the American League record, Judge easily beat out Los Angeles Angels two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani in an MVP race some thought might be close.

The 6-foot-7 outfielder re-

U.S. decathlon champ out for Paris after

votes and two seconds for 410 points from a Baseball Writers' Association of America panel. Ohtani, last year's winner, was picked first on two ballots and second on the other 28 for 280 points.

Yordan Alvarez of the World Series champion Houston Astros finished third.

Judge acknowledged feeling "extremely nervous" about the announcement, calling Ohtani "by far one of the best players on this planet."

"You never want to assume anything," Judge said. "Both those guys had incredible years."

Goldschmidt won the NL honor for the first time after a couple of close calls earlier in his career.

The first baseman garnered 22 of 30 first-place votes and eight seconds for 380 points from a separate BBWAA panel.

"It's a great honor. But it isn't just about me," Goldschmidt said. "I mean, there's been so many people that have helped me." San Diego Padres third Judge said on MLB Net- ceived 28 of 30 first-place baseman Manny Machado finished second with 291 points after getting seven first-place votes and 13 seconds.



Garrett Scantling, of the United States, makes an attempt in the shot put competition in the men's heptathlon at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, on March 18, 2022.

Associated Press

April 9, USADA said Scantling provided an altered email, which constitutes a tampering violation.

Under global antidoping rules, athletes are responsible for filling out logs to let testing authorities know where they'll be, so they

can be found for no-noout-of-competition tice, testing. Incomplete whereabouts logs often make testers unable to find certain athletes. The third time an athlete cannot be located over a 12-month period can result in a penalty.

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